

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 16, 2012

Agenda Item: 2012 – 2013 Bison Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for all game species. This happens every other year between December and Final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the FWP Commission, FWP proposes existing structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For 2012 and 2013 bison hunting season structures, there are no proposed changes from the 2011 regulations. Proposed bison management harvest is different from the bison hunting season structure and is a separate item on the Feb. 16 FWP Commission agenda.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Bison seasons did receive some comments to include interest in more hunter opportunity. Public comment ran thru 5 p.m., Jan. 23, 2012 with comments forwarded to FWP and the FWP Commission. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 16 commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2011 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationales for individual proposals have been included in FWP Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Feb. 16 commission meeting.

Proposed Motion: I move the commission adopt the final 2012 and 2013 Bison Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP.